

DP-301411

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-20, and 27 have been allowed and Claims 21-22 have been amended, leaving Claims 21-26 for further consideration by the Examiner.

It is noted that these amendments are not made to overcome any prior art made of record, but are made merely to advance the prosecution of this case.

Support for the amendment to Claim 21-22 can at least be found in originally filed Claims 1 and 4, respectively.

Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered because they 1) do not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search; 2) because they do not raise issues of new matter; 3) because no new claims are being added; and 4) because the amendments place the claims in a better condition for allowance.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner again for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview. During that interview, the Examiner stated that Claims 1-3, 5-20, and 27 are allowed. With regard to Claim 21, the Examiner stated that Claim 21 raised new issues that would require an additional search.

In an effort to advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants proposed the above amendment, which now places the case in a condition for allowance. Applicants maintain that Claim 21, as previously submitted, is allowable over the prior art made of record. However, Applicants have amended the claim, rather than expending additional resources pursuing this matter. Claim 21, as amended, now comprises subject matter that the Examiner had already found allowable in, e.g., Claim 1, thereby not requiring any additional searching by the Examiner. Accordingly, independent Claim 21 is now allowable. Moreover, as dependent claims from an allowable independent claim, Claims 22-26, are, by definition, also allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the entire case is now allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the proposed amendment and allow the case.

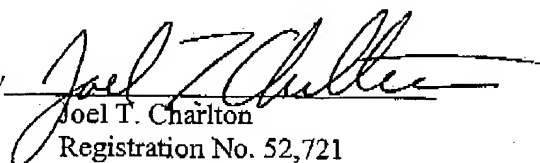
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It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 10, 2004